

**ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

An inner tightening mechanism adapted to equip an article of footwear having a flexible or semi-rigid upper, and an article of footwear incorporating such tightening mechanism. The inner tightening mechanism includes a retention band that is connected to the inner surface of the upper by at least two anchoring points fixed on the lateral and medial sides, respectively, of the flexion in the direction of the heel, and at least one anchoring point is positioned substantially above the sole.